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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: FX-2 JET FIGHTER BID

What does "Strategic" mean?

Op-ed in liberal Folha de S. Paulo (1-8) by columnist Eliane Catanhede writes: "...The question in place [at the moment] is whether the partnership between Brazil and France is enough to justify the purchase of the Rafale fighter plane.... The GOB seems to be divided between those who want to support the Air Force's report [which indicates preference for the Swedish jet] and the pro-French who support the Rafale at any cost and see only the political aspects.....In the end, what does 'strategic' really mean. The alliance between the Sarkozy and Lula's Administrations or an Air Force package between two countries that will last for the next 30 years and will have industrial and technological impact?"  
White